



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 10.06.2016

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE DR. JUSTICE S.VIMALA

CrI.O.P.(MD).No.8746 of 2016

WEB COPY

V.Muralitharan
S/o.G.Venkateswaram,
minor rep. by his natural guardian
- mother Rajeswari.

.. Petitioner

Vs.

State rep. by
the Inspector of Police,
Mandapam Police Station,
Mandapam Camp,
Ramanathapuram District.
(Crime No.33 of 2016)

.. Respondent

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 482 of Cr.P.C. praying to direct the learned Juvenile Justice Board, Ramanathapuram, to consider the bail application of the petitioner in Crime No.33 of 2016 on the file of the respondent Police on merits on the date of surrender itself.

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Jegadeeswaran

For respondents : Mr.A.P.Balasubramani,
Government Advocate(Criminal side)

ORDER

It is an application seeking a direction to the learned Juvenile Justice Board, Ramanathapuram, to pass orders on the bail petition filed by the petitioner on the same day of his appearance in Crime No.33 of 2016 on the file of the respondent Police. A case has been registered against the petitioner, who is stated to be aged 16 years, under Sections 294(b), 324 and 506(ii) IPC.

2.Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Government Advocate (CrI. Side) for the respondents.

3.When a specific question was posed as to why a direction is required in a case where bail is mandatory under Section 12 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), the learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the bail application of the juvenile is not being considered on the same day of appearance, as the Juvenile Justice Board wants the report of the Probation Officer before the grant of bail and that compels the minor to stay in Observation Home which the petitioner wants to avoid. Under such circumstances, this application for direction is taken up.



4. Section 12 of the Act, dealing with grant of bail to juvenile, is extracted hereunder for instant reference:

"12. Bail to a person who is apparently a child alleged to be in conflict with law - (1) When any person, who is apparently a child and is alleged to have committed a bailable or non-bailable offence, is apprehended or detained by the Police or appears or brought before a Board, such person shall, notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974) or in any other law for the time being in force, be released on bail with or without surety or placed under the supervision of a Probation Officer or under the care of any fit person:

Provided that such person shall not be so released if there appears reasonable grounds for believing that the release is likely to bring that person into association with any known criminal or expose the said person to moral, physical or psychological danger or the person's release would defeat the ends of justice and the Board shall record the reasons for denying the bail and circumstances that led to such a decision.

(2) When such person having been apprehended is not released on bail under sub-section (1) by the officer-in-charge of the police station, such officer shall cause the person to be kept only in an observation home in such manner as may be prescribed until the person can be brought before a Board.

(3) When such person is not released on bail under sub-section (1) by the Board it shall make an order sending him to an observation home or a place of safety, as the case may be, for such period during the pendency of the inquiry regarding the person, as may be specified in the order.

(4) When a child in conflict with law is unable to fulfil the conditions of bail order within seven days of the bail order, such child shall be produced before the Board for modification of the conditions of bail."

5. Section 12 of the Act does not contemplate obtaining of report of the Probation Officer before the grant of bail. If the Juvenile Justice Board is not granting bail, the alternative option open to the Juvenile Justice Board is to place the Juvenile under the supervision of a Probation Officer.

6. Bail can be refused under the proviso to Section 12 of the Act, only if the release is likely to bring the juvenile into the association with any known criminal or expose him to moral, physical or psychological danger or that his release would defeat the ends of justice. In other circumstances, so far juveniles are concerned, grant of bail is the rule and non grant of bail is only an exception.



7. Under such circumstances, the petitioner is directed to appear before the Juvenile Justice Board within ten days from the date of receipt of a copy of this order and file bail application. The Juvenile Justice Board is directed to consider and pass orders on the bail application of the petitioner on merits, on the same day of his appearance.

8. This Criminal Original Petition is accordingly disposed of.

Sd/

Assistant Registrar(P&A)

/TRUE COPY/

Sub Assistant Registrar

To

1. The Inspector of Police,
Mandapam Police Station,
Mandapam Camp,
Ramanathapuram District.

2. The Juvenile Justice Board,
Ramanathapuram.

3. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

+1cc to M/S.R.Jegadeeswaran, Advocate in SR.No.29610

Cr1.O.P(MD)No.8746 of 2016
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